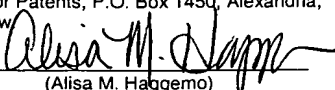


I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service as Express Mail, Airbill No. EV 223962170 US, in an envelope addressed to: MS PCT, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on the date shown below

Dated: March 31, 2004

Signature:

  
(Alisa M. Haggemo)

Docket No.: 60680-1898  
(PATENT)

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re Patent Application of:  
Raimund Strobel et al.

Application No.: Not Yet Assigned

Art Unit: N/A

Filed: Concurrently Herewith

Examiner: Not Yet Assigned

For: BIPOLAR PLATE FOR FUEL CELLS, WHICH  
IS FORMED FROM A SHAPED FOIL, AND  
METHOD FOR MANUFACTURING SAME

**FIRST PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

MS Patent Application  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

**INTRODUCTORY COMMENTS**

Prior to examination on the merits, please amend the above-identified U.S. patent application as follows:

**Amendments to the Claims** are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 2 of this paper.

**Remarks/Arguments** begin on page 3 of this paper.